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December 15, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Stephanie Vaughn ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager Emergency and Remedial Response Division U.S. EPA, Region 2 290 Broadway, 19th Floor New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 31 – November 2009 Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Vaughn:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

(a) <u>Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement</u> Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On November 11, CPG and EPA held a conference call to discuss composite sediment sampling approach for human exposure locations for the Benthic Sampling Program.
- On November 17, CPG and EPA held a conference call to discuss the benthic toxicity testing details for EPA's split toxicity testing for the Benthic Sampling Program.
- On November 18, CPG and EPA held a conference call to discuss the Sedflume Analysis.

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Correspondence

- On November 2, CPG submitted a response letter regarding the EPA request for information on Low Resolution Core (LRC) Spilt Data.
- On November 2 and 3, a series of emails were transmitted between the CPG and the EPA regarding proposed human exposure sampling locations for the Benthic Sampling Program.
- On November 3, EPA provided comments on the hand sampling Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Benthic Sampling Program.
- On November 4, CPG received email approval from the EPA of the proposed options for sampling bioaccumulation locations for the Benthic Sampling Program.
- On November 6, CPG submitted the Proposed Sample Analysis Plan for Fish/Decapod Tissues for the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project to the EPA.
- On November 6, CPG submitted to EPA a Protocol Modification Form for Human Health Exposure Samples for the Benthic Sampling Program.
- On November 9, CPG submitted two field modifications and one noncompliance documentation for the Physical Water Column Monitoring Program (PWCM) to EPA.
- On November 9, EPA requested additional information regarding the CPG's contract laboratory SOPs for EPA Method 1613B utilized for LRC sediment samples.
- On November 11, EPA provided comments on the High Resolution Mass Spectrometry Memo dated October 20, 2009 to CPG.
- On November 12, CPG clarified issues related to sediment samples from the benthic analytical program through email with the EPA.
- On November 12, CPG responded to EPA's November 9 request for additional information regarding the CPG's contract laboratory SOPs.
- On November 16, CPG submitted the October Progress Report to EPA.

Work

- CPG continued the fall survey of the PWCM Program.
- CPG continued drafting the LRC data summary report which includes a
 description of the field activities, submittal of field records, analytical data
 results and presentation and summary of data validation results.



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- CPG completed collection of benthic samples in accordance with the approved Surface Sediment Chemical Analyses and Benthic Invertebrate Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Testing QAPP.
- CPG continued reviewing the Newark Bay (NB) physical water column monitoring data collected by Sommerfield and Chant.
- CPG Modeling Team continued work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport using a version of SIT-SEDZL-J.
- CPG continued revising the LPR/NB PWCM QAPP in response to EPA comments.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

There are no results from this reporting period.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will complete revisions to the draft LPR/NB PWCM QAPP per EPA comments.
- CPG will complete with the fall survey of the PWCM Program.
- CPG will continue planning activities for the Chemical Water Column Monitoring QAPP.
- CPG will continue preparation of the LRC data summary report.
- CPG Modeling Team will continue work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport Model.
- CPG Modeling Team will participate in the Semi-Annual EPA/CPG Modeling Meeting scheduled for December 10, 2009.
- CPG will begin preparation of Risk Assessment Tech Memos as requested by EPA in comments on the approved Problem Formulation Document and Field Sampling Plan Volume 2 QAPPs.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

• No problems encountered.

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If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours

de maximis, inc.

Willard F. Potter Project Coordinator

cc: Pat Hick, EPA Office of Regional Counsel

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